

Aaron Calhoun Turnage, Sr.

Aaron Calhoun Turnage, son of Carrie Speight and Aaron Paolius Turnage was born September 23, 1886 in Pitt County, NC and died January 3, 1977. He married Maybelle Flanagan on September 3, 1912. He and Maybelle had 3 daughters and a son.

Aaron grew up in the farming community of Farmville, NC. He went through school in Farmville, where graduating from school meant a degree of accomplishment that was enviable in any circle. In order to further his education, he went to Oak Ridge and studied business.

Aaron married Maybelle Flanagan who was born and raised about a mile from his home, on what was known as the "plank road." (See reference to plank road in these documents.) After marriage he lived near Lang's Crossroads on a tobacco farm. The large home Aaron was born in was near the crossroads and he and Maybelle built a home about a quarter of a mile further down the road toward Farmville. It was in this house that they raised their four children.

The Turnage family was large and owned several parcels of land in the vicinity. His brother Lester lived on an adjacent farm, which included Turnage homeplace. He had six brothers. All of them worked on the farm until they left to pursue other opportunities although his brother, Lester, like him continued to farm. His brother, David, moved to Greenville and became a successful businessman and his brother, Collier, moved to Washington, NC and became a businessman.

He was a kind and gentle man with a strong sense of values. Like many farmers and other business men in the south, the "Great Depression" created many problems. In fact, many lost their farms due to economic pressures and Aaron did the same. An indication of his honesty is that, even after being bankrupt and owing money because of the loss of the farm, he voluntarily continued to pay off the farm debt and finished paying it off in 1960, some twenty years or more after the debt was incurred.

Aaron was active in the Farmville Christian Church and supported it all his life. He provided a wonderful home for his wife and children. If there is anything that was a true passion for him it was his horses. He was raised in an age when horses were one of the most valuable things on the farm and in the lives of farmers and their livelihood.